

REMARKS

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Claims 1-3, and 5-12 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fang, U.S. patent 6,628,311.

Claims 5 have been amended to more clearly state the invention. Reconsideration and allowance of each of the claims 1-3, and 5-12, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Fang, U.S. patent 6,628,311 discloses a graphical user interface including hyperlinked help messages embedded within a help dialog. When the hyperlink help message is selected, a computer program product that selects an appropriate tab is executed. The respective tab corresponds to a possible reason why the deactivated display control is deactivated. The computer program product also highlights a respective display control included in the selected tab, which corresponds to the possible reason why the deactivated display control is deactivated. As stated at column 1, lines 34-36:

"In addition, interdependencies generally exist among different display controls, which make certain display controls become unavailable to a user under certain conditions. For example, as shown in FIG. 2a, if the Duplex/Booklet display control 16 is set to "Booklet Printing" rather than "Side Binding," the Staple display control 14 becomes unavailable to the user, because the use of a staple is not compatible with booklet printing. To communicate this to the user, the respective display control is deactivated (for example, see the Staple display control 14 in FIG. 2a). A

help icon 26 (which may be displayed as a balloon-shaped help sign) is also displayed near the deactivated display control. Thus, the user may select the help icon 26 to retrieve information about the deactivated Staple display control 14.

FIG. 2b illustrates a help message dialog box 30, which is displayed when the help icon 26 is selected. The help message dialog box 30 includes help information 34 explaining why the Staple display control 14 is deactivated. Thus, by referring to the help information 34, the user may realize the staple display control 14 is deactivated because the Duplex/Booklet display control 16 was changed from "Side Binding" to "Booklet Printing," for example. That is, item four in the help information 34 states that the staple is available when booklet printing is not selected. Thus, the user may change the Duplex/Booklet display control 16 back to "Side Binding" and then configure the Staple display control 14. The user may then close the help message dialog box 30 by selecting the OK push button 36 or Cancel push button 38."

In accordance with the present invention, the adjustment button simplifies the user's task, especially in situations when the user has inadvertently selected items that are restricted from certain actions. When a menu item is disabled, the GUI developer has already written code to determine when the menu item needs to be disabled. It is therefore relatively easy to retrofit existing code to take advantage of the disabled with assistance state. Also the disabled with assistance state gives the GUI developer an option that eases the transition to a new release for an experienced user, without creating confusion for a new user as GUI implementation evolve.

The prior art including Fang fails to disclose or suggest the recited steps of providing code for correcting a condition for disabling control; and displaying an adjustment button for user selection to execute said code for correcting a condition for disabling control of the method, computer program product, and computer system for providing dynamic assistance for disabled user interface resources as taught by Applicants and recited in independent claims 1, 8, and 9. There is neither an express nor an implied suggestion in the cited Fang, which would have motivated the artisan to modify the disclosed graphical user interface in a manner which would result in that which is claimed. Consequently, it is submitted that these claims 1, 8 and 9 are patentable.

A prima facie case of obviousness for a rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 can be established by showing that some objective teaching in the prior art or knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art suggests the claimed subject matter. In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 1074, 5 USPQ2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Fang provides no suggestion of providing code for correcting a condition for disabling control; and displaying an adjustment button for user selection to execute said code for correcting a condition for disabling control as taught and claimed by Applicants in claims 1, 8 and 9.

As quoted above at column 1, lines 48-60, Applicants respectfully submit that Fang does not suggest the recited steps of providing code for correcting a condition for disabling control; and displaying an adjustment button for user selection to execute said code for correcting a condition for disabling control. Applicants respectfully submit

Serial No. 09/519,413

that no implicit or explicit reason exists to plausibly apply the teachings of Fang in a manner that suggests or would make obvious Appellants' claimed invention.

Applicants acknowledge that Fang teaches a graphical user interface including hyperlinked help messages embedded within a help dialog; however, Fang includes no suggestion nor motivation for providing code for correcting a condition for disabling control. Similarly Fang provides no suggestion, nor motivation for displaying an adjustment button for user selection to execute said code for correcting a condition for disabling control. Applicants respectfully submit that nothing in Fang teaches or suggests the limitations. Applicants respectfully submit that the teachings or suggestions found in the prior art including Fang would not have been led one of ordinary skill in the art to the claimed invention. The mere fact that the prior art may be modified as defined by the subject matter of the claimed invention, does not make the modification obvious unless the prior art suggested the desirability of the modification. Only Applicants teach providing dynamic assistance for disabled user interface resources as claimed in independent claims 1, 8 and 9, as amended.

Thus, each of the independent claims 1, 8 and 9, as amended, is patentable.

Dependent claims 2-3, 5-7 and 10-12 further define the invention of patentable claims 1 and 9, and are likewise patentable.

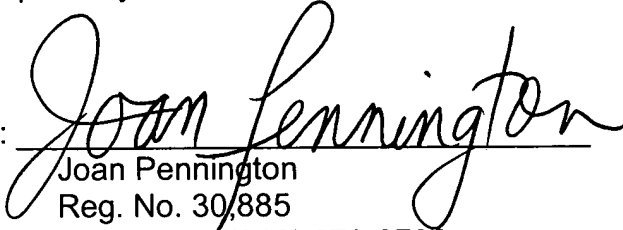
Applicants have reviewed all the art of record, and respectfully submit that the claimed invention is patentable over all the art of record, including the references not relied upon by the Examiner for the rejection of the pending claims.

Serial No. 09/519,413

It is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance and allowance of each of the pending claims 1-3, and 5-12 is respectfully requested. Prompt and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner upon considering this amendment should find that a telephone interview would be helpful in expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is respectfully urged to call the applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Joan Pennington
Reg. No. 30,885
Telephone: (312) 670-0736